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Mr. Jones finds, also, that biography has no interest for children of high-school age. There are some of us who will regret this lack of interest in a fascinating department of literature and may not wish to accept the conclusion as final. If there be truth in the charge, however, there is at once brought up the question of teaching the formal history of literature which is almost entirely biographical. We doubt the value of such courses, except as purely supplementary to reading already done.

A curious omission, to one who knows the reading of boys, is that Mr. Jones makes no mention of the dime novel in the lists of outside reading. An interesting chapter could be added to such a book on the amount of such reading by the high-school Freshman and its increase or decrease in the following years of the high-school course, with the probable relation to such increase or decrease played by the English course. By such a study a good test would be made of the value of the classics in training the mind away from the cheap and unreal in writing.

Teachers of history and biology should do some worrying when they read this book. Teachers of English and all those who are concerned with courses of reading for schools can get most valuable information from it.

J. A. WALLACE

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Readings in English Prose of the Eighteenth Century. Edited by RAYMOND MACDONALD ALDEN. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1911. \$2.25.

Professor Alden's book of selections from the prose of the eighteenth century is intended to furnish the necessary prose reading for college courses in the history of the English literature of the period. It provides no inconsiderable body of matter from each of the half-dozen authors regarded by the editor as most important—from Addison, Johnson, or Burke, for example. The purpose is not merely to give characteristic specimens of the style of these writers, but to leave an impression of their ways of thought and their subjects, in substantial bulk, so that the student may conceive of them as solid realities, not as thin abstractions of applied rhetoric. In the case of less important authors, such as Bolingbroke and Godwin, the extracts are briefer, and merely exemplify the temper and the literary manner of the writer from whom they are drawn. The great novelists, likewise, because of the restrictions of space, are represented merely as stylists. There are some extracts from the professed critics of the century, such as Dennis, Hurd, and the brothers Warton, chosen to represent the tendencies and topics of conscious reflection on literary themes. The figure of Johnson bulks largest in the book, as in the mind of his time. The selections constitute a fair representation of the age, except for one great omission; namely, that there is nothing in the book from John Wesley's Journal, and in general nothing to represent the evangelical revival

of the later eighteenth century. In a work which includes a fair exhibition of the characteristic romantic criticism of the period from 1750 to 1765, and a passage from Godwin's *Political Justice* because it illustrates "the spirit of 1789," the failure even to refer to the religious aspect of the general eighteenth-century expansion indicates a view of the literary tendencies of the century which is gravely out of balance. Allowing for the neglect of this important theme, the selections evince openness of mind, soundness of judgment, and a fresh and sincere view of the authors at first hand. Steele's melodramatic narratives with piteous endings seem to the present writer too characteristic to be entirely omitted, and some of Goldsmith's comments on weeping comedy appear to him as important "documents" as the manifestos of romantic criticism. But these are small points. The book as a whole is well done, if we accept its point of view.

The questions that rise in the present writer's mind are not about details, but about the conception of the work. The book is well done; but ought it to have been done at all? The sample-package method of teaching literature, though a practical necessity at some stages of a student's progress, is in itself a dangerous evil. Books exemplifying it may justly be looked upon with suspicion, the presumption is against them, and they always must expect to be cited to "show cause." They satisfy curiosity where they should awaken it. They produce a superficial appearance of adequacy and completeness. Their very form seems to round off and even up and finish off an era. They diminish the effects of perspective, and they deaden contrast. Is it easy to realize that there are four generations from Addison to Godwin, when one reads a bit of the *Spectator* and a bit of *Political Justice*, bound within the same covers, on the same paper, in the same type? It is a substantial fact about an author that selections from his writings are to be searched for in nine stately quarto volumes of "works," or in a thin pamphlet, or in a chunky duodecimo. How much more real to turn the pages of the *Taller*, the *Spectator*, or the *Rambler*, to find a half dozen numbers indicated for reading, and thus to know the book ever so slightly at first hand, than to read the same extracted selections in a group by themselves within a collection of samples.

Even if practical exigencies make it impossible to refer to actual unabridged "whole works," there are copious and excellent "select works" of the most important eighteenth-century authors: Craik's *Swift*, and Dobson's *Steele*, and Wendell and Greenough's *Addison*, and Payne's *Burke*, and Fraser's *Berkeley*, provided with the liberal annotation which is necessary for the vivid realization of a text dealing as prose does with occasional subjects, and which is designedly absent from Professor Alden's book. There is but one type of representative prose selections which is practically necessary—a handbook for the purely formal study of style—something far more rigidly technical than Professor Alden has intended to create.

A book of prose selections illustrating an era cannot be affectionately regarded for its own sake. Verse collections may be. Bryant's *Library of*

Poetry and Song is large and lovable; the *Golden Treasury*, though its beauty is "held too much in the hollow of the hand," is as exquisite as a sea-shell; and the *Greek Anthology* is a drawerful of the gems and coins of the sculptors of language in little. But the book of prose extracts is incurably a textbook. Its contents may be most select and generous: the choicest words of the robust Defoe, the human Steele, the large-souled Johnson, the magnificent Burke; but it obstinately refuses to be loved.

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Kleines Lesebuch in Lautschrift. I. u. II. Theile. Von WILHELM VIETOR. Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1912. I, M. 0.80; II, M. 3.

Viotor's phonetic readers are well known to any student of phonetics. His *Kleines Lesebuch* is a very practical introduction to German pronunciation. It is in essence a shortened edition of *Deutsches Lesebuch*, Part I. The *Lesebuch*, Part II, offers an additional amount of reading material.

The phonetic method deserves more consideration by American teachers. It is now widely used in continental schools.

Outlines of the History of German Literature. By JOHN G. ROBERTSON. New York: G. B. Putnam's Sons, 1911. \$1.25 net.

Robertson's outlines are intended to accompany his larger *History of German Literature* with a briefer introduction to the subject. The economy of space compared with the larger book has been attained by the suppression of detail concerning minor writers; the chief writers and works have, on the other hand, been dealt with more extensively. The book has been provided with chronological tables and the reader will find the parallel tabulation of events in English and other literature useful in helping him to place the phenomena and movements of German Literature. It is in every respect a very useful book.

Dictionary of German and English, English and German. By MAX BELLOWS. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1912. \$1.75.

This is an extremely practical dictionary which also pays attention to scientific and technical expressions. Its main features are, first, an introduction giving the essentials of German declensions and conjugations as well as a comparison of German and American measures and weights; second, it distinguishes the masculine, feminine, and neuter genders by different types; third, both German-English and English-German divisions are arranged concurrently on the same page. The dictionary appears to be a thorough piece of work and should be widely used in American schools. A stronger binding might be desired for a book intended for such extensive handling.

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